

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02

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R 091050Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6228

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3816

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AL, GR, IT

SUBJ: ALBANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. ACCORDING TO A RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN TIRANA HAS REPORTED INDICATIONS THAT THE ALBANIAN FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1971-75 FAILED TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES IN MANY KEY AREAS. PRINCIPAL AMONG THESE WAS THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WHERE MANY SHORT FALLS ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED. THE AMBASSADOR REPORTS UNCONFIRMED EVIDENCE THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS NOW BEEN PURGED PRESUMABLY AS A RESULT OF THE POOR AGRICULTURAL RECORD.

2. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO REPORTED THE SIGHTING OF SOME STORM CLOUDS IN ALBANIAN-GREEK RELATIONS. THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS NOTED SEVERAL ARTICLES IN PROMINENT ALBANIAN NEWSPAPERS, GENERALLY IN THE FORM OF LETTERS FROM "CONCERNED CITIZENS", RAISING THE SPECTER OF THE NORTHERN EPIRUS ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO LIE
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DORMANT IN RECENT YEARS. THE AMBASSADOR IS NOT SURE

WHETHER THESE LETTERS ARE MEANT TO RESPOND TO
A FEW ARTICLES HE UNDERSTANDS APPEARED IN SOME GREEK
NEWSPAPERS RECENTLY ABOUT THE SAME SUBJECT OR WHETHER
THEY SIGNAL A DOWNTURN IN GREEK-ALBANIAN RELATIONS
WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPROVING RECENTLY IN THE LIGHT
OF THE DECISION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO RE-ESTABLISH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SEVERAL YEARS AGO.VOLPE

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